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ABSTRACT

Project Oz is a not-for-profit special services agency providing drug education and crisis intervention services. Project Oz curricula provide compact and well-researched information for teachers, supplemented by student learning activities that reinforce the lecture portions of the topic. These activities are grade-appropriate and incorporate visual, tactile, kinesthetic, and auditory learning styles. This curriculum is the violence prevention component for grades 4 and 5. Inclusion is emphasized as an aspect of the school that means students attend their home school with their age and grade peers and that teachers work with each other and families to create a sense of community in the classroom. Adaptations have been made to the violence curriculum to increase inclusion in its broadest sense. "Best Practices in Violence Prevention" for grades 4 and 5 looks into various ways risks surrounding students can be diminished, and offers strategies and skills for dealing with everyday situations that may lead to violence. The curriculum consists of five distinct areas that have been selected to give students factual information and skills to cope with increased violence in the schools and society. These areas are: (1) "Coping with Anger"; (2) "Conflict Resolution"; (3) "Developing Friendships"; (4) "Keeping Yourself Safe"; and (5) "Tapestry of Cultures" (activities and information to increase student appreciation of diversity). Suggestions are given for implementing violence prevention in the entire school and in specific curriculum areas. Advice is offered for linking the curriculum with the community and making use of the resources available for teacher and student needs. (SLD)

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